

Hilda D. Curry
Mayor

*Read &
Submitted by
W. LMA SubRow*



July 27, 2011

Senate Environmental Quality Committee
House Natural Resources and Environment Committee

Re: Chicot Aquifer

Dear Committee Members,

Two years ago, on August 18, 2009 the New Iberia Board of Trustees adopted Resolution 09-90 supporting Save Lake Peigneur, Inc.'s efforts to stop the planned expansion of natural gas storage caverns at the Jefferson Island Salt Dome at Lake Peigneur. This resolution was presented to the Louisiana Mineral Board to confirm opposition to expansion of natural gas storage at the salt domes.

Louisiana Water Company (LAWCO) and Save Lake Peigneur, Inc. provided the city with detailed information pertaining to the contamination of the Chicot Aquifer. This data has been corroborated by a highly regarded geologist and hydrologist, George Losonsky, Ph.D.; thus reinforcing our position to stop the permit process.

As stated in a letter from LAWCO to the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources dated October 1, 2009, LAWCO's "New Well Field" was developed several years ago for the purpose of retreating from a known and identified source of contamination (arsenic) of the Chicot Aquifer. It was further stated by LAWCO that contamination of their New Well Field cannot be permitted as this is the sole water source for over 60,000 residents in New Iberia and Iberia Parish. LAWCO further stated that it was their belief that "...additional pumping by the production as proposed by AGL will change the direction of recharge and accelerate the rate of recharge in the Chicot Aquifer to the extent that contaminated groundwater will be drawn into the new well field in a relatively brief period of time."

The Chicot Aquifer is the sole source of drinking water for New Iberia and most of Acadiana. If the Chicot Aquifer is contaminated the devastation will be irreversible. For these reasons as well as a concern for our local environment, I reaffirm my opposition to the expansion of natural gas storage caverns at the Jefferson Island Salt Dome at Lake Peigneur.

Sincerely,

Hilda D. Curry

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The City of New Iberia

457 East Main Street, Suite 300 New Iberia, Louisiana 70560-3700 Phone (337) 369-2300, Ext. 3001 Fax (337) 373-3105